

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD

SUBJECT: TIN: FIFTH INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT

1. HOST GOVERNMENTS OF ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE PRODUCER MEMBERS OF FOURTH INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT (ITA), AND PARTICIPATED IN MAY-JUNE 1975 UN TIN CONFERENCE TO NEGOTIATE DRAFT FIFTH ITA, WHICH NOW OPEN FOR SIGNATURE THROUGH APRIL 1976.

2. FIFTH ITA WILL COME INTO FORCE EITHER PROVISIONALLY OR DEFINITELY JULY 1, 1976, PROVIDING AT LEAST SIX PRODUCING COUNTRIES ACCOUNTING FOR 950 (OF 1,000 PRODUCER) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VOTES AND AT LEAST NINE CONSUMING COUNTRIES ACCOUNTING

FOR 300 (OF 1,000 CONSUMER) VOTES HAVE SIGNED ITA OR
DEPOSITED INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION.

3. BASED ON NATIONAL TIN PRODUCTION, UN TIN CONFERENCE
APPORTIONED 1,000 PRODUCER COUNTRY VOTES AS FOLLOWS:
AUSTRALIA, 47; BOLIVIA, 179; INDONESIA, 138; MALAYSIA, 426;
NIGERIA 45; THAILAND, 126; AND ZAIRE, 39.

4. EARLIER THIS MONTH, US TRADE PRESS CARRIED UNCONFIRMED
REPORTS THAT AT LEAST SOME PRODUCER MEMBERS (BOLIVIA
AND MALAYSIA WERE SPECIFICALLY NAMED) OF FOURTH ITA WERE
THREATENING TO WITHHOLD SIGNATURE FROM FIFTH ITA BECAUSE
OF DISSATISFACTION OVER INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL (ITC)
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN'S HANDLING OF SUSPENSION OF ITC'S
BUFFER STOCK MANAGER (BSM) AND DEPUTY BSM SHORTLY BEFORE
OPENING OF UN TIN CONFERENCE IN MAY. WASHINGTON REP
OF MALAYSIAN TIN BUREAU CALLED DEPARTMENT TO DENY
ACCURACY OF THESE REPORTS, SAYING HE HAD BEEN INFORMED
BY HIS KUALA LUMPUR HEAD OFFICE THAT GOM PLANS TO SIGN
FIFTH ITA; ALSO THAT HIS SOURCES INFORMED HIM BOLIVIA
ALSO LIKELY TO SIGN.

5. WE UNDERSTAND FROM AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES THAT ITC
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN SUSPENDED THE TWO BUFFER STOCK
OFFICIALS AFTER RECEIVING EVIDENCE THEY HAD USED THEIR
OFFICIAL POSITIONS TO PERSONALLY PROFIT IN TIN MARKET.
BSM AND DEPUTY, INDONESIAN AND BOLIVIAN NATIONALS,
RESPECTIVELY, OFFICIALLY RESIGNED THEIR ITC POSTS
EARLIER THIS MONTH. FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS TRADE PRESS
REPORTED THAT PRODUCER COUNTRY DISSATISFACTION OVER
SUSPENSION ISSUE HAD SUBSIDED, AND THAT ALL SEVEN PRODUCER
MEMBERS OF ITC NOW LIKELY TO SIGN FIFTH ITA.

6. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE POSTS' CONTINUING
ASSESSMENTS, BASED ON THEIR READING OF SITUATION AND/OR
CHANCE DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS, OF
(A) LIKELIHOOD OF HOST COUNTRY SIGNING FIFTH ITA;
AND (B) TIMING OF SIGNATURE.

7. IF IN THESE OR OTHER DISCUSSIONS QUESTION OF POSSIBLE
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US MEMBERSHIP IN FIFTH ITA ARISES, POSTS SHOULD REPLY
THAT USG HAS NOT RPT NOT YET REACHED ANY DECISION RE
MEMBERSHIP IN FIFTH ITA. US DECISION WILL REQUIRE
CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF FIFTH ITA, AND WILL INVOLVE
CONSULTATIONS WITH US INDUSTRY AND WITH CONGRESS. WE
ARE UNABLE AT THIS TIME TO ESTIMATE WHEN THE US WILL
REACH A DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO SIGN THE FIFTH
ITA.

8. FOR EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR: SEPTTEL HAS REQUESTED
EMBASSY KL ASCERTAIN GOM INTENTIONS RE FIFTH ITA. KISSINGER

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